

the first metal camera in the world, and the production of the Petzval lens, a milestone in the development of camera lenses.

Several of these large-diameter lenses are included in the exhibit along with one of the early all-metal cameras and other pioneer Voigtlander models. One of the oldest items on display will be a compass built about 1760 in Vienna by Johann Christopher Voigtlander.

Of historic interest to this hemisphere is an Order of the Day, dated in 1865, bestowing the Imperial Order of Guadalupe on Peter Wilhelm von Voigtlander by Emperor Maximilian of Mexico. And to bring us more nearly up to date, the exhibit will include the 3,000,000th Voigtlander lens, which rolled off the line in 1947. The exhibit will be on display for a few weeks.

### AAAS MEETS IN BERKELEY

THE American Association for the Advancement of Science will hold its 121st meeting December 26-31 on the Berkeley campus of the University of California. Delegates to the convention have been invited by the Director, Dr. Robert C. Miller, to tour the Academy during their stay in the Bay Area.

### WHEN THEY TALK, IT POURS!

MAYBE IT ISN'T RIGHT for us to tattle, but if you are wondering why we had that downpour of rain on November 8 and 9, we can trace the blame directly to the door of the White House.

On those two days, members of the President's Advisory Committee on Weather Control met here for a round of informal talks with commercial rain-makers from across the nation.

Delegates and spattering drops of the first general rain in San Francisco since last April arrived in Golden Gate Park simultaneously. It didn't stop raining until the delegates departed.

If this matter could be called to the attention of Congress perhaps Eisenhower and his advisory committee could be given the sort of bipartisan recognition they deserve. They have been the first persons to confound Mark Twain's observation that everyone talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it.

### ASTRONOMY SECTION

THE ATMOSPHERE this month, Leon E. Salanave thinks, will be too filled with tinsel stars and flying reindeer for any astronomical observations, even verbal ones. Therefore, the Astronomy Section will defer to the Christmas Season. The next meeting of the Section will be January 26, subject to be announced.

### NEW MEMBERS

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS were elected by the Council at its meeting of November 9, 1954:

#### REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

Dr. Henry C. Albert, Jr.  
Mr. Floyd Burnette  
Mr. Hiram J. Chrisman  
Mr. Lynn R. Duckering

Miss Mary Therese Krois  
Mr. Arthur G. Schade  
Miss Mary T. Watanabe

#### ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Catholic Round Table of Science

# ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

NUMBER 180

DECEMBER, 1954

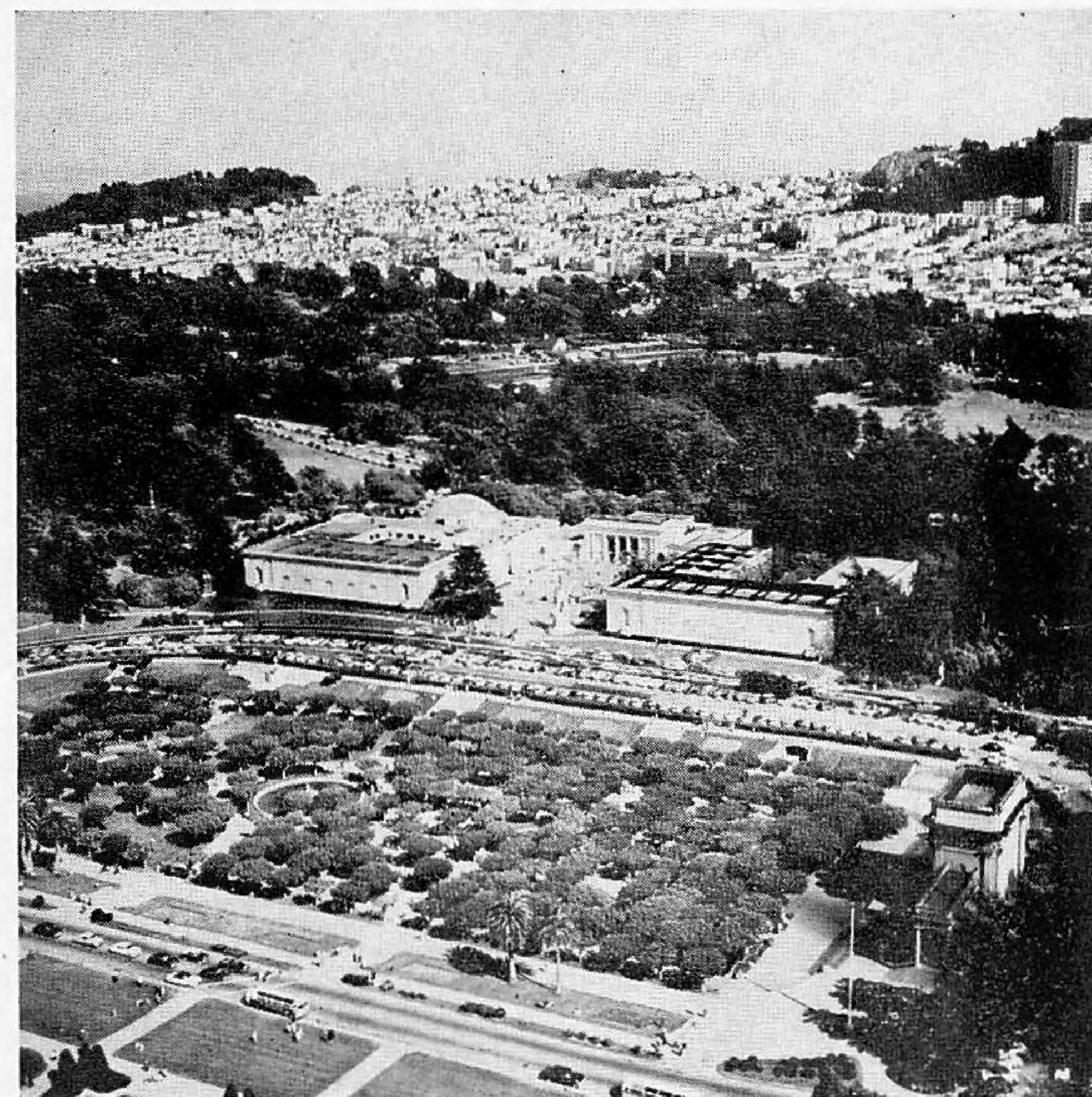


Photo courtesy U. S. Navy

THE ACADEMY FROM A HELICOPTER

*Published Monthly by*

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

GOLDEN GATE PARK • SAN FRANCISCO



## December Announcement

THE REGULAR DECEMBER MEETING will be held at 8:15 P. M., Wednesday, December 15, in the Morrison Auditorium. Laurel Reynolds, Audubon Screen Tour lecturer, will present a color film:

### "GARDEN SANCTUARY"

Mrs. Reynolds, a resident of Piedmont across the Bay, says her preparation for her present career as a wildlife photographer and lecturer was unintentional. First she studied botany at the University of California and then she married a physician whose hobby was bird study.

For several years she was editor of "The Gull," monthly publication of the Audubon Association of the Pacific. Her writing has also included articles for *The Gull* and *Audubon Magazine*. For several years she was Nature Study Consultant for the Oakland Girl Scouts, and co-chairman of the Conservation Committee of the Piedmont Garden Club. She is past-president of the Golden Gate Audubon Society.

Altogether, Mrs. Reynolds has photographed, compiled, and edited six color motion picture programs. In the film selected for the program here she shows there is no better place than a garden to demonstrate the relationship of man to his environment. The film story begins with a glimpse of California hills as they were before man changed the landscape—before buckeye, live oak, and bay were replaced by eucalyptus, pine, and cedar; before lupine and poppy gave way to azaleas from Japan, daisies from England, and fuchsias from Australia. As the planting has changed so has the population of the animal world. Thrashers, road runners, and gray squirrels have departed to be replaced by robins, doves, and fox squirrels.

The gardens of the West shown in the film are varied in type, ranging from the extremely exotic to the entirely natural. But all are sanctuaries for those who have made them and for the life each one attracts.

### COVER PHOTO

THE AERIAL VIEW of the Academy on our cover is from an original color photograph made by the Navy especially for the Armed Services photographic show held here recently.

### LETTER FROM PERU

DR. EDWARD S. ROSS, curator of entomology, reports from Peru that all goes well with the expedition and that he is indeed in an insect collector's mecca. The trip across the Andes was uneventful, he says; their truck purred right over the top at 16,000 ft. elevation without any trouble.

At Tingo Maria the forest is close at hand and teeming with an endless diversity of insects. Ross, who puts down his camera occasionally to join Evert I. Schlinger of U. C. in collecting, reports good luck on embiids. Says he has found many new species and is learning much about their biology. As of October 8, Ross had taken more than 700 color shots.

The happy hunters as yet aren't even talking of coming home.

### IT PROBABLY TICKLED

A FEW WEEKS AGO everyone at Steinhart Aquarium was puzzling over the mysterious case of the cardboard box, most of all, staff member Armeka T. Jackson, who was nursing a hand that bore toothmarks of a poisonous Gila monster.

Jackson frankly couldn't understand it. The Gila monster had always been extremely docile. A chunky lizard about 20 inches long, it had performed more than once before television cameras on "Science In Action," where its deportment was always above reproach.

The box itself, a former cheese container, was round, 2 ft. high and 1 ft. in diameter. The Gila monster had been placed in the box while its glass tank was being cleaned, and it was when Jackson reached in to take the normally torpid reptile out of the box that it flew into a rage. It bit through Jackson's protective leather glove and into his hand. Fortunately, the lizard didn't get a bulldog-grip which would have enabled it to inject its poison.

When events were reconstructed in the curator's office, Jackson remembered that the week before a stump-tailed skink had expressed extreme displeasure after spending a few minutes in the same box. And the same had been true of a Mexican beaded lizard. Like detectives the gentlemen set to work. Upon close examination it was discovered that a bit of delousing powder had somehow found its way into the box.

As matters now stand, there remains but one scientific question. Jackson wants to know if the lizards were mad because he put them in the box, or mad because he took them out!

### MORGANS RETURN FROM EUROPE

MORRIS E. MORGAN, marine biologist, has returned from a one-year leave of absence which he spent in Europe, and is now working as a member of the coöperative sardine investigation.

Morgan was accompanied to Europe by his wife, Marjorie, and their three daughters, ages 9, 7, and 4. The family lived in Munich, where Morgan attended classes at the University and Mrs. Morgan worked for Radio Free Europe. During their stay abroad, however, they visited France, Holland, Denmark, Austria, Switzerland, and Italy. Morgan was able also to tour the oceanographic station of the Principality of Monaco and eight of the marine biological stations in Germany, including the station of Helgoland, destroyed during the War and now located on Sylt, Germany's northernmost island.

### VOIGTLANDER CELEBRATES 200TH YEAR

AN EXHIBIT prepared by Voigtlander in celebration of the company's 200th anniversary will be placed on display here about the middle of this month. The temporary exhibit will be set up in Lovell White Hall with the San Francisco *Examiner's* permanent exhibit on the history of photography.

The Voigtlander organization, one of the oldest and most respected in the photographic business, has been turning out precision and optical instruments since 1756, and it has been a manufacturer of cameras and quality lenses since 1840. Among its many achievements were the inventions of the binocular and